SCHAFE FISH AND GAME

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House Bill 404
April 11, 2013
Senate Fish and Game Committee

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Keith Kubista and I am here today representing Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife in support of HB 404.

Block management is a highly valuable program that provides free hunting public experiences and builds relationships with landowners, hunters, and resource manages.

This bill will continue or expand public hunting opportunity and access to private property in a mutually beneficial way.

It recognizes the value and importance to maintain relationships between landowners and hunters.

This bill is also a positive step and great example of incentive based solutions to provide access to the hunting community.

Private land has some great habitat with abundant game populations.

HB 404 is a way for the hunting public to access and appreciate those things without the state spending excessive amounts of money on land acquisitions or challenging private property rights.

Finally the bill establishes a 2 year program which should provide time to evaluate the success of the bill.

I ask for the Committees support of HB 404 and urge a do pass.